

5 May 1985
MJN 8510

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Foreign Broadcast Information Service

THROUGH: Chief, Operations Group

SUBJECT: Monthly Report--Jordan Bureau--April 1985

I. OPERATIONS

A. Monitorial/Editorial

1. King Husayn surprised nearly everyone by designating former Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i to form a new cabinet on 4 April. According to the announcement on Amman television and radio, only five ministers from Ahmad 'Ubaydat's government were retained. Early announcements and decisions by the new government portend a boost for business and private industry in Jordan and steps to improve relations with neighboring Syria. With at least 10 West Bankers in the new cabinet, it is also likely that the king is seeking moderate Palestinian endorsement for his initiative on a Middle East peace.

2. The bureau continued to provide a large number of items on the activities of the new post-coup government in Sudan. Although attempts to monitor Omdurman radio have proved fruitless, reception of SUNA improved following the Army takeover so that Arabic transmissions are received with generally fair/good reception. Initial pronouncements by the Transitional Military Council stress a nonaligned foreign policy with efforts to improve relations with neighbors Ethiopia, Chad, and Libya while continuing ties with Egypt and the United States.

3. PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, in Amman for meetings with King Husayn and other Jordan Government leaders, met with members of a visiting U.S. congressional delegation on 12 April, according to Radio Monte Carlo and Jordan newspaper reports.

B. Communications

The Bureau's main send and receive circuits and pony line circuit were successfully upgraded from 75 baud to 150 baud on 1 May. The heavy volume of incoming traffic, which at times has resulted in large backlogs of messages

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on the Bureau's receive line, made the upgrade highly desirable. The upgrade, along with technical changes in the operation of the pony line circuit, use of AIGs, and some reduction in the number of lateral services received on the circuit, is expected to eliminate the backlog problem.

C. Lateral Services

1. On 9 April, the Bureau received a letter of appreciation from DCM Edward Gnehm for its heads up reporting on the new Jordanian Council of Ministers, which was used for briefing the desk officer in the Department before the news hit the wire services. In his letter, Mr. Gnehm expressed particular gratitude to senior monitor Armand Bawab for the time he took to talk about some of the new ministers--information that he found "most helpful."

2. The printer on the pony line in the Embassy Political Section was adjusted during Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy's visit to Amman 4-7 April to provide extra copies of materials of interest. The chief of the section advised the bureau that FBIS materials were included in "briefing packages" for the Murphy party and expressed his personal thanks for the service.

II. ADMINISTRATION

Personnel

The Embassy completed a salary change survey of the local economy and cabled the results to State/PER/FSN at mid-month. State is studying the results of the survey and has promised a response on possible changes in the local wage scale in the near future.

III. VISITS

A. From the Bureau

Bureau chief [] to Washington, 5-24 April, for the annual Bureau Chiefs Conference.

B. To the Bureau

1. Under Secretary of State for Management Ronald Spiers,

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Executive Assistant [redacted] and NEA Executive
Director [redacted] 24 April, for familiarization
during a visit to Embassy Amman.

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2. London Bureau administrative officer [redacted]
28 April-1 May.

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[redacted]
Chief, Jordan Bureau

ATT: Monthly Production Report

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TOTAL PUBLISHABLE MORTGAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	284,538
TOTAL NON-PUBLISHABLE MORTGAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	54,668
TOTAL NUMBER OF PUBLISHABLE ITEMS FILED DURING MONTH:	1,050

BROAD-CASTS PRESS PUBLICATIONS
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THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

COLONIALS UNDER OF 19901 SURVEILLANCE IN
APRIL

1. 100%
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AMMAN DOMESTIC SERVICE IN	
ARABIC	30330
AMMAN TELEVISION SERVICE IN	
ARABIC	3740
AMMAN TELEVISION SERVICE IN	
ENGLISH	310
AMMAN PETRA-JNA IN	
ARABIC	2268
AMMAN AL-DUSTUR IN	
ARABIC	6710
AMMAN BAHAR AL-USBU' IN	
ARABIC	0
AMMAN AL-SAY' IN	
ARABIC	7140
AMMAN THE JERUSALEM STAR IN	
ENGLISH	710
AMMAN JORDAN TIMES IN	
ENGLISH	11630
AMMAN SAUT AL-SHA'B IN	
ARABIC	6440
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NABJ 'UYUN LEBANON VOICE OF HOPE IN	
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ARABIC	9340

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